

POETRY.

THE WIDOW'S MITE.

The tear for others' wo that's given,
Or pity's whispered prayer,
Ascends, like incense, up to Heaven,
And claims a blessing there;
When beams where gold and diamonds glow,
And costliest works of art,
May no such rich return bestow,
Not springing from the heart.

'Twas thus when pomp and pride had thrown
Their offerings to the poor,
A humble widow stood alone,
And gave her little store:
Though small the gift—twas all her hoard,
And angels with delight
Did in the Book of Life record
That lowly widow's mite.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The following account of the appointment of Gen Washington to the command of the Continental Army, June 19th, 1775, is said to have been obtained from the private journal of John Adams, and substantially corroborates the former versions of the cause which led to the appointment of Washington:

The army was assembled at Cambridge, Mass. under General Ward, and Congress was sitting at Philadelphia—Every day new applications in behalf of the army arrived. The country was urgent that Congress legalize the raising of the army as they had what must be considered, and was in law considered, only a mob, a band of armed rebels. The country was placed in circumstances of peculiar difficulty and danger. The struggle had begun, and yet every thing was without order. The great trial now seemed to be in this question: Who shall be the Commander in Chief? It was exceedingly important, and was felt to be the hinge on which the contest might turn for or against us. The Southern and the Middle States, warm and rapid in their zeal for the most part were jealous of New England, because they felt the real physical force was there; what then was to be done? All New England adored Gen. Ward; he had been in the French war, and went out laden with laurels. He was a scholar and a statesman. Every qualification seemed to cluster in him: and it was confidently believed that the army could not receive any appointment over him. What then was to be done? Difficulties thickened at every step. The struggle was to be long and bloody. Without union all was lost. The country and the whole country must come in. One pulsation must beat through all hearts. The cause was one, and the army must be one.—The members had talked, debated, considered, and guessed, and yet the decisive step had not been taken. At length Mr. Adams came to his conclusion. The means of resolving it were somewhat singular, and nearly as follows: he was walking one morning before Congress-hall apparently in deep thought, when his cousin Samuel Adams came up to him and said,

—What is the topic with you this morning?

—Oh the army, the army, he replied. I'm determined to go into the hall this morning and enter on a full detail of the colonies in order to show an absolute need of taking some decisive steps. My whole aim will be to induce Congress to appoint a day for adopting the army as the legal army of these United Colonies of North America, and then to hint at my selection of a Commander in Chief.

—Well, said Samuel Adams, I like that, cousin John, but on whom have you fixed as that Commander?

—I will tell you—George Washington of Virginia, a member of this house.

—Oh, replied Samuel Adams quickly, that will never do, never.

It must do, it shall do, said John, and for these reasons: the Southern and Middle States are loth to enter heartily in the cause and their arguments are potent; they say that New England holds the physical power in her hands, and they fear the result. A New England army, a New England commander, with New England perseverance all united, appeal them. For this cause they hang back. Now the only course is to lay their fears, and give them nothing to complain of, and this can be done in no other way but by appointing a Southern Chief over this force, and then all will rush to the standard. This policy will bind us in one mass and that mass will be irresistible.

At this Samuel Adams seemed greatly moved. They talked over the preliminary circumstances, and John asked his cousin to second the motion. Mr. Adams went in, took the floor and put forth all his strength, in the delineation he had prepared, all aiming at the adoption of the army. He was ready to own the army, appoint a commander, vote supplies, and proceed to business. After his speech had been finished, some doubted, some objected and some feared. This warmth increased with the occasion. To all these doubts and hesitations he replied:

Gentlemen, if this Congress will not adopt this army before ten months have set, New England will adopt it, and she will undertake the struggle alone—yes, with a strong arm, and a clear conscience, she will front the foe single-handed.

This had the desired effect. They voted.

The New York Sun says:—'Manufactories in New England are engaged in making chinizes highly creditable to the skill of American artists. They are said to equal the best French goods of the same kind, in taste of design, strength of texture or color, and are sold at the low price of 12½ cents per yard, the usual cost of goods of similar quality being 87½ cents per yard.'

In Invention.—A London paper says that a man who for many years carried on an extensive business at Ramegate, after eleven years' study, has completed some machinery which will, when brought into use, he imagines, supersede the aid of steam power. It may, he thinks, be applied to clocks of any description, requiring no winding up, when put together, and will continue going so long as the materials last.

A Small Mistake.—I say neighbor Snobbs, if you don't keep your hens out of my garden I will shoot them. Very well, Doolittle, shoot away; only if you kill any of my hens, throw them over into my yard! Crack went the old fowling piece, morning after morning, and the large fat hens were pitched into neighbor Snobbs's yard like rain. After a fortnight or more Doolittle discovered that neighbor Snobbs never had any hens, and that he had been shooting his own, having broken out of their own hen-

This had the desired effect. They voted.

There is a Rhododendron Tree in the Public Conservatory at Boston, which has now more than 2000 flowers expanded, forming a truly magnificent sight.

—

—

saw New England was neither playing nor to be played with. They agreed to appoint a day. A day was fixed. It came, Mr. Adams went in, took the floor and urged the measure, and after some debate it passed.

The next thing was to get a commander for this army, with supplies, &c. All looked to Mr. Adams on the occasion, and he was ready. He took the floor, and went into a minute delineation of the character of Gen. Ward, bestowing on him the encomiums which then belonged to no one else. At the end of the eulogy he said, 'but this is not the man I have chosen.' He then went into the delineation of the character of the Commander-in-Chief, such as was required by the peculiar situation of the colonies at this juncture. And after he had presented the qualifications in his strongest language and given the reasons for the nomination he was about to make, he said—

—Gentlemen, I know these qualifications are high, but we all know they are needful at this crisis in this chief. Does any

say they are not to be obtained in this country? I reply I have to say they are; they reside in one of our own body, and the person whom I now nominate is

George Washington, of Virginia.'

Washington, who sat on Mr. Adams' right hand, was looking him intently in the face to watch the name he was about to announce, and not expecting it would be his, sprang from his seat, the minute he heard it, and rushed into an adjoining room. Mr. Adams had asked his cousin Samuel to ask for an adjournment as soon as the nomination was made in order to give members time to deliberate, and the result is before the world.

I asked Mr. Adams, among other ques-

tions, the following:

—Did you ever doubt of the success of the conflict?

—No, said he, 'not for a moment. I expected to be hung and quartered if I was caught, but no matter for that—my country would be free; I knew George III. could not forge chains long enough and strong enough to reach around these United States.'

The Power of the Press.—In the year 1721, the wages of a laboring man were just three half pence per day; and at the same period, the price of a Bible fairly written out was £30 sterling. Of course a common laborer in those days could not have procured a Bible with less than the entire earnings of thirteen years!—Now, a beautiful printed copy of the same book can be purchased with the earnings of one day! Take another view of the subject. An ordinary clerk cannot make a fair manuscript copy of the Bible in less than three months!—With a common printing press, work equivalent to printing a copy of the whole Bible, can be done in ten minutes; and with a steam press of the most improved construction, the same work can be done in three minutes!

It is a melancholy reflection to think upon what a very shadow human happiness depends. A smile or frown—a kind or angry word, can make this word appear unto us almost a paradise, or in an instant seem to change it into a scene of desolation.

One moment does the heart glow with gratitude and thankfulness to the Creator of all things, that we live, and move, and have our being; and the next, sensible only to the distresses and suffering of existence, we would most gladly be numbered with the dead.

Spare Minutes.—Spare minutes are the gold dust of time; and Young was writing a true, as well as striking line, when he affirmed that—'Sands make the mountain, moments make the year.' Of all the portions of our life, the spare minutes are the most fruitful in good or evil. They are gaps through which temptations find the easiest access to the garden.

Quantity of Breath in Man and Woman.—The French are a most experimenting race, and their discoveries in arts and sciences proverbially in advance of other nations. By experiments made at the Paris Academy of Science, and arrived at by an ingenious species of mask being placed over the face of the person whose breath was to be examined, it was ascertained that man gives out a larger quantity than woman, and this difference is most striking between the ages of sixteen and forty, at which latter period the quantity of carbonic acid given out by the male is double that of the female. In the male the quantity goes on increasing from the age of eight years to thirty, after which it begins to diminish; and, as a man becomes older, and older the diminution goes on in an increased degree. In old age, the quantity is not greater than it was at the age of ten.

A Small Mistake.—I say neighbor Snobbs, if you don't keep your hens out of my garden I will shoot them. Very well, Doolittle, shoot away; only if you kill any of my hens, throw them over into my yard! Crack went the old fowling piece, morning after morning, and the large fat hens were pitched into neighbor Snobbs's yard like rain. After a fortnight or more Doolittle discovered that neighbor Snobbs never had any hens, and that he had been shooting his own, having broken out of their own hen-

This had the desired effect. They voted.

There is a Rhododendron Tree in the Public Conservatory at Boston, which has now more than 2000 flowers expanded, forming a truly magnificent sight.

—

—

Equestrianism in Mexico—Kendall relates that while he and his comrades were on their march in Mexico, as prisoners of war, they one morning met a soldier, driving a little, half starved jackass. Upon the back of this donkey, he adds, 'with his head turned towards the animal's tail, a large and extremely fatigued hog was riding—the first of the swinish race I had ever seen mounted. His four large legs were confined, two on either side of the animal which was bearing him along; and the hog was ever and anon changing the position of his head from one side to the other, in order to take the greatest possible comfort under the circumstances.'

I cannot say that this equestrian performance was altogether as graceful as some I have seen, nor that he had that dauntless bearing which gives to fear of horsemanship their greatest charm: but he certainly manifested a resignation and stoical indifference which could hardly have been expected, and we laughed outright at the scrubby looking animal, with his singular rider, as he trotted past us. I have often heard of a 'hog in armor,' but never expected to see a hog on horseback."

Rivers in China—Captain Bingham, in his work on China just published in England, says the Yank-ise-kiang, or Child of the Ocean, is one of the most extensive rivers in the world, second only to the Mississippi and Amazon. It takes its rise in Thibet, and ere reaching the sea passes over an extent of 2,700 miles of country in its circuitous route, relieving the Lakes Toongong and Poyang of their superfluous waters. When passing Nanking, it runs with a continued ebb, and with such strong force as to require a strong breeze to sail against it. In its downward course, numerous Islands are formed, which are constantly increasing from the quantity of soil suspended in its waters.

SPRINGFIELD, (Ill.) Feb. 11, 1848.

On the 7th inst. the Governor destroyed, by fire, \$2 000 000 of State indebtedness, in front of the State house, being the amount of bonds received of the State Bank, by the terms of dissolution. Many of the members, very properly, wished the bonds cancelled, but it was thought best by the glorifying party to have them burnt. The Fund Commissioner (White side) then brought out a large amount of bonds—some signed, some numbered and some blank. In attempting to throw something like a cart load on the fire at once, the strings which bound them together broke; the wind was high, the bonds were scattered, and a general scramble among the men and boys commenced. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have thus been scattered, and have been so carefully withheld and concealed as to lead to the apprehension that improper use will be made of them. This act of the Fund Commissioner has excited great indignation. It was done without any authority, and the Legislature have called upon him for explanation.—The Senate has ordered an investigation into the matter, and will try, as far as they can, to remedy the evil; and a bill has actually been introduced making it a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment, for any person to be found with one of these bonds in their possession within ten days after the passage of the act. It is said that the Fund Commissioner has no record of the bonds destroyed and scattered, and what his object was in thus attempting to destroy such a mass of bonds at this particular time, remains to be seen. The bonds which are out are sterling bonds of £100 and £250, and dollar bonds of \$100 all with coupons.—Correspondence of the Tribune.

This is a concise narrative of the proceeding, which elicited the singular communication from the President which accompanies the report and papers transmitted to the House. This message requires some notice, and will be more fully understood and properly appreciated by a brief history of the proceeding which has furnished the occasion for its communication.

It will be recollect that, on the 18th of May last, a resolution was adopted by this House, calling on the Secretary of War for the reports and papers, the principal part of which have been transmitted along with the message which forms the subject of this report. It will also be recollect that the Secretary of War with the approbation, and as now appears by the direction of the President, declined to communicate the reports and information called for; that, subsequently, on the 13th day of August, this House adopted certain resolutions declaratory of its right to demand of the Executive and heads of Departments such information as might be in their possession relating to subjects of its deliberations and within the sphere of its constitutional powers; that in addition to these resolutions, another was adopted, requesting the President to cause to be communicated to the House the reports and information which the Secretary of War had declined to furnish on its former call. Of this resolution no notice was taken by the President, until a call was made upon him at the present session, requesting him to communicate to the House when the information called for by the last mentioned resolution might be expected.

This is a concise narrative of the proceeding, which elicited the singular communication from the President which accompanies the report and papers transmitted to the House. This message requires some notice, and will be more fully understood and properly appreciated by a brief history of the proceeding which has furnished the occasion for its communication.

The New York Sun says:—'Manufactories in New England are engaged in making chinizes highly creditable to the skill of American artists. They are said to equal the best French goods of the same kind, in taste of design, strength of texture or color, and are sold at the low price of 12½ cents per yard, the usual cost of goods of similar quality being 87½ cents per yard.'

In Invention.—A London paper says that a man who for many years carried on an extensive business at Ramegate, after eleven years' study, has completed some machinery which will, when brought into use, he imagines, supersede the aid of steam power. It may, he thinks, be applied to clocks of any description, requiring no winding up, when put together, and will continue going so long as the materials last.

A Whig Victory in New Orleans—On Monday the 30th ult. the gallant Whigs of the city of New Orleans, achieved a signal triumph over Luciferism and Tylerism, by the election of Mr. Freerets Mayor, by 315 majority, being the largest majority ever given for a Whig for that office! The Whigs had the general and state governments both to contend against; but the Whigs of New Orleans are for HENRY CLAY and VICTORY!

There is a Rhododendron Tree in the Public Conservatory at Boston, which has now more than 2000 flowers expanded, forming a truly magnificent sight.

Mr. Cooper's Report.

FRAUDS UPON INDIANS—RIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT TO WITHHOLD PAPERS.

Read in the H. of Representatives, Feb. 25.

Mr. Cooper, of Pa., from the Committee on Indian Affairs, to which the subject had been referred, submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the message of the President of the United States, accompanying dry reports made by Lieutenant Colonel Hitchcock to the Department of War, relative to the affairs of the Cherokee Indians, and certain frauds alleged to have been committed upon them and the Government, report:

That, in compliance with the request of the President contained in his message, they have examined the report of Lieutenant Colonel Hitchcock on the subject of the frauds he was appointed to investigate; and are of opinion, that neither the public interest, nor 'just regard to the characters and rights of persons apparently implicated, but who have not had an opportunity to meet the imputations on them,' requires that the report should be suppressed or its publication postponed. It contains nothing which is not proper to be communicated to the House, but, on the other hand, many suggestions which may materially aid in shaping its legislation on the subject in which it refers. And here the committee might have stopped, had it not been for the extraordinary message of the President which accompanies the report and papers transmitted to the House. This message requires some notice, and will be more fully understood and appreciated by a brief history of the proceeding which has furnished the occasion for its communication.

But motives founded on such a consideration cannot operate upon the House. It has no hand in the appointment to office; no necessary partiality for those appointed; no interest to conceal their malversations, and none to convict them of offences of which they have not been guilty. The legislative department is unbiased by the motives of fear or favor, which, in such a case, can hardly fail to influence the judgment of the Executive. The opinion of the latter is therefore less likely to be correct than that of the former, being more likely to exhibit the hue with which interested feelings would probably tinged it. It is true that the opinions of the legislative body, as well as those of the Executive, may be colored by prejudice. The influence of party spirit may mislead the judgment and shake the integrity of the Legislature; but the concurrence of a large majority of both the political parties of the country proves that such a spirit had nothing to do with the decision of the question upon which the House and the Executive are at issue in the present instance. Thus it will be seen that the opinion of the House, as expressed in its resolutions, is entitled to more consideration than that of the President which dissents from it, because there is less reason to suspect that it was influenced by interested motives.

In support of his opinion dissenting from the resolutions of the House, the President thus argues: 'The instrument from which the several departments of the Government derive their authority makes each independent of the other in the discharge of their respective functions. The injunction of the constitution, that the President shall see that the laws be faithfully executed, necessarily confers an authority commensurate with the obligation imposed, to inquire into the manner in which all public agents perform the duties assigned them by law. To be effectual, these inquiries must be often confidential. They may result in the collection of truth or falsehood; or may be incomplete, and require further prosecution. To maintain that the President can exercise no discretion as to the time in which the matters thus collected shall be promulgated, or in respect to the character of the information obtained, would deprive him at once of the means of performing one of the most salutary duties of his office. An inquiry might be arrested at its first stage, and the officer whose conduct demanded investigation be enabled to elude and defeat it.'

This is a concise narrative of the proceeding, which elicited the singular communication from the President which accompanies the report and papers transmitted to the House. This message requires some notice, and will be more fully understood and appreciated by a brief history of the proceeding which has furnished the occasion for its communication.

The resolution of the House to which the President takes the strongest exception, and to combat the conclusions of which the greater part of his message is devoted, is that which declares 'the House of Representatives has a right to demand from the Executive or heads of Departments such information as may be in their possession, relating to subjects of the deliberations of the House and within the sphere of its legitimate powers.' In relation to this resolution he says: 'If, by the assertion of this claim of right to call upon the Executive for all information in its possession, relating to any subject of the deliberations of the House and within the sphere of its legitimate powers, it is intended, that the Constitution, from which the several departments of the Government derive their power, has made each of them independent of the other in the discharge of their several functions. But what are the functions which are exercised independently by the several departments of the Government? The President exercises the office or function of commander in chief of the army independently of Congress; his power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States is exercised independently of Congress; he has the power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, independently of the House of Representatives; he has the power to nominate, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint ambassadors, ministers, consuls, and judges of the Supreme Court, independently of the House of Representatives, &c. But what has all this to do with the right of the House to institute inquiries and investigate abuses? It is a function of the House of Representatives to investigate abuses—sometimes for the purpose of legislating to prevent their recurrence—sometimes for the purpose of punishing the offenders; but, in either case, its power to examine witnesses, to compel the production of papers, to exercise all the powers of a judicial tribunal in the investigation of like offenses, subject to certain well established

rules, has never been doubted, and is as clearly implied in the Constitution as the right of the President 'to inquire into the manner in which all public agents perform the duties assigned to them by law.'

The House of Representatives has the sole power of impeachment. The President himself, in the discharge of his most independent function, is subject to the exercise of this power—power which implies the right of inquiry on the part of the House to the fullest and most unlimited extent. The committee need not say that the right of inquiry,

THE ADAMS SENTINEL AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.



WHIG STATE CONVENTION.

On Wednesday, February 22d, at 10 o'clock, the delegates assembled at the Court House in Harrisburg, and on motion of J. P. Sanderston, Esq. of Lebanon, organized by the appointment of the following officers, *pro tem.*

PRESIDENT.
COL. GEORGE MAYER, of Lancaster.

SECRETARIES.

MORTON M'MICHAEL, of Philadelphia.

DR. LOT BENSON, of Berks.

By previous arrangement, each delegation had selected one of its number for the purpose of forming a Grand Committee to select officers for the permanent organization of the Convention. The counties being called over, the following names were reported:

John B. M'Pherson, Adams.
James G. Reed, Allegheny.

Daniel Washabaugh, Bedford.
A. G. Bradford, Berks.

John M'Cord, Bradford.

Isaac Colton, Bucks.

Charles C. Sullivan, Butler.

John Linton, Cambria.

Wm. R. Harrison, Centre.

A. R. M'Ilvaine, Chester.

L. A. Mackey, Clinton.

W. G. Hurley, Columbia.

J. W. Farrelly, Crawford.

Samuel Given, Cumberland.

John A. Fisher, Dauphin.

J. Sketchley Morton, Delaware.

Stephen Skinner, Erie.

Andrew Snively, Franklin.

Brice Blair, Huntingdon.

James Mathers, Juniata.

Robert Kelton, Lancaster.

George Pfleger, Lebanon.

Evan Thomas, Lycoming.

William Stewart, Mercer.

George W. Patton, Mifflin.

Richard B. Jones, Montgomery.

John Leisenring, Northampton.

George Brosius, Northumberland.

Henry H. Eiter, Perry.

M. M'Michael, Phil. city and county.

James H. Campbell, Schuylkill.

Tobias Musser, Somerset.

James W. Chapman, Susquehanna.

Robert Candor, Union.

Wm. G. Daniels, Washington.

Thomas E. Cochran, York.

The committee having retired, Messrs.

R. T. Conrad and Joseph R. Chandler, of Philadelphia, Jasper E. Brady, of Franklin, J. S. Richards, of Berks, and Col. Smith, of Philadelphia, addressed the convention.

John A. Fisher, Esq. from the committee on the subject, reported the following list of officers:

PRESIDENT,
A. R. M'ILVAIN, of Chester.

VICE PRESIDENTS,

John Ely, of Bucks.

John Landis, { Lancaster,

Col. Geo. Mayer, { Berks.

Philip Smyer, of York.

Melchior Brenneman, of Cumberland.

John R. M'Clintock, of Perry.

Dr. Lot Benson, of Berks.

Dr. George N. Eckert, of Schuylkill.

John Leisenring, of Northampton.

George Bransius, of Northumberland.

W. W. McDowell, of Mifflin.

James Mathers, of Juniata.

Levi B. Christ, of Union.

Wm. Sloan, of Columbia.

Walter Craig, of Washington.

George Mullin, of Bedford.

John Witherow, of Franklin.

Davis Henderson, of Montgomery.

Benjamin Jordan, of Dauphin.

John Bossler, of Lebanon.

John Fenton, of Cambria.

James Wilson, of Adams.

J. M'Williams, of Huntingdon.

Andrew Wilcox, of Allegheny.

J. P. Eyer, of Delaware.

W. P. J. Painter, of Lycoming.

Jeremiah Church, of Clinton.

E. W. M. Blain, of Erie.

J. Chamberlain, of Cambria.

William Allison, of Centre.

John M'Cord, of Bradford.

J. M. Thomas, of Philadelphia.

SECRETARIES.

Joseph Neida, of Montgomery.

R. G. Harper, of Adams.

J. W. Comly, of Columbia.

F. G. Kay, of Allegheny.

William Johnson, of Lycoming.

Israel Carpenter, of Lancaster.

W. Criswell, of Mifflin.

Lorenzo S. Lehman, of Lebanon.

Charles Lawton, of Schuylkill.

The report was adopted.

On taking the chair, Mr. M'Ilvaine

made a few happy and appropriate

marks, in which he thanked the Conven-

tion for the honor conferred, and congra-

ulated the delegates on the cheering

prospects before them.

On motion of Jos. R. Chandler, Esq.

a committee of seven was appointed by

the President, to report resolutions to

the Convention. The following were the

members of the committee:

Jos. R. Chandler, of Philadelphia.

Thos. E. Franklin, of Lancaster.

Sketchley Morton, of Delaware.

Jasper E. Brady, of Franklin.

J. M. Chamberlain, of Cambria.

George W. Patton, of Mifflin.

The Convention then adjourned until

3 o'clock.

At 3 o'clock, the Convention met

agreeably to adjournment.

Mr. Chandler, from the committee on

resolutions, reported the following, which

were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the period has arrived in

the Presidential term of service at which

it is customary for the people, in whom

is the source of official power, to con-

sider of the person who shall be their

candidate for the succession, and to de-

vote and suggest means for carrying into

effect their determination; and whereas

this Convention has been formed of del-

egates selected by the primary assem-

blies of the Great Whig Party in the several districts of Pennsylvania, and informed of the wishes of their constituents in regard to the Presidential candidate; And whereas a crisis in the affairs of the Nation renders it necessary for the success of principles and the good of the nation, that there should be presented as the Whig candidate for the Presidency, a man of tried principles, of admitted competency and unsullied integrity, combining as far as possible those qualifications which will conciliate the various interests and views of different sections of the country, and different opinions of classes of citizens; or where coincidence of opinions and views may not be hoped for in minor affairs, then to attract respect and support by a cordial agreement in questions of great national importance, and ensure confidence from his past services, that every measure he may propose will bear upon it the impress of his devotion to the public good:—Therefore

Resolved, That this Convention do nominate HENRY CLAY of Kentucky, as the candidate of the Whig Party of Pennsylvania, for the Presidency of the United States at the election in 1844.

Resolved, That in our Candidate thus nominated, we present to the people a man whose life thus far has been spent in the public service, & in the propagation & advocacy of measures of lasting good, or in opposition to plans of evil or doubtful tendency; that in the conflicts of party for the last thirty years, while he has exhibited, to all public measures, a lofty devotion that has commanded the admiration of the world, and ranked him with the greatest statesmen of the age, he has borne himself with a republican simplicity that showed him deserving the enlarged esteem which he has enjoyed even of his political opponents.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That as American Republicans, we cherish the principles which propose the application of American capital to promote and reward American labor; and we recognize no shade of Republicanism, in men or measures, that would degrade the honest American laborer to the rank of a foreign serf, by reducing the reward of his industry to the standard of those countries in which the extravagance of the idle must be sustained by the unrequited toil of the operative.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That as American Republicans, we cherish the principles which propose the application of American capital to promote and reward American labor; and we recognize no shade of Republicanism, in men or measures, that would degrade the honest American laborer to the rank of a foreign serf, by reducing the reward of his industry to the standard of those countries in which the extravagance of the idle must be sustained by the unrequited toil of the operative.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That though the principles of HENRY CLAY, and the measures which he, as a public man, has proposed, are identified with the best interests of the nation at large, yet are they pre-eminently those which tend to promote the political importance, and advance the general prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania.



ADAMS SENTINEL.

GETTYSBURG, Pa. March 13, 1843.

Zodiacal Light.

This interesting phenomenon in the heavens, was visible here on Monday and Tuesday evening of last week, in the south west horizon—and attracted considerable notice and interest. The National Intelligencer remarks upon it as follows:

"Zodiacal light appears in the morning before sunrise, and in the evening after twilight. It is a pyramid, with the sun for its basis; its sides are not straight, but curved, as those of a lens when viewed edgeways. It is generally seen about the period of the equinoxes, when there is the shortest twilight. This light resembles the milky way, a faint twilight, or the tail of a comet. The intensity of the light, its shape and tints, may be varied according to the condition of the atmosphere, which is now remarkable for its clearness."

The zodiacal light was first described about two centuries ago, and the various theories respecting it may be seen by referring to works on astronomy."

Tavern Licenses.

Those innkeepers desirous of obtaining licenses, at the April Court, will bear in mind, that to insure the time requisite for publication, their notices should be inserted on or before the 27th inst.

A Church robbed.

The Roman Catholic Church in York, was entered on Monday night last, and robbed of a portion of valuable plate, consisting of a silver Chalice, a small silver box, and a gilt brass remonstrance. The sacrilegious scoundrels, (says the Press) not content with this, destroyed several articles which were of no value to themselves.

JACOB REESE, indicted for burglaries committed a short time since at Hancock, Md., had his trial at Frederick a few days ago, was found guilty, and sentenced to the Penitentiary for 13 years and 6 months! Reese is only about 23 years of age.

The Nominations.

On the nomination of Mr. Wise to the Senate, the first vote was, ayes 12, nays 24; on the second, ayes 8, nays 26; on the third, ayes 2, nays 29.

On the nomination of Mr. Cushing, the first vote was ayes 19, nays 27; on the second, ayes 10, nays 27; on the third, ayes 2, nays 29.

The nominations of Messrs. Everett and Blahe were confirmed with but little opposition. Mr. Spencer was confirmed by two majority.

Union.—The Intelligencer and Capitolian, at Harrisburg, have united their establishments, the object of which is to "concentrate the patronage of the Whig party upon one paper at the seat of Government, and make it more effective as the central organ of the party in Pennsylvania."

The Impeachment.

The petitions calling for an impeachment of Gov. Porter, a short time since, were referred to a select committee. That committee a few days ago reported: the majority, that there was no ground for such a course; and the minority, embodying evidence in their report of a character which went very far to show the guilt of the Governor, and recommending that articles of impeachment be preferred. A motion to print both reports was under discussion for several days, and on Monday last, the House refused to print by a vote of 50 to 36—showing clearly that they are "afraid to let the developments of the report of the minority go to the world." Mr. Myers voted in the majority—Mr. Marshall was absent.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

The Committee in the Senate, to whom was referred the Congressional Apportionment bill, reported it with but little alteration from the form in which it passed the House. It had not been acted on at our last accounts.

A bill relative to the assessment and valuation of taxable property, has been under discussion in the Senate for some days.

The Senate bill to reduce the expenses of the Legislature has been before the House, but not yet decided on.

A general Banking law, it is expected, will be reported this week in the Senate, by the Chairman of the Committee on Banks, Mr. Kidder. Individual liabilities, (says the Reporter) and no voting by proxy for directors, will be imposed.

Medical Department of Pennsylvania College in Philadelphia.

At the Annual Commencement of this Institution, held in the College Buildings, on Thursday, the 7th of March, the following gentlemen received the degree of Doctor of Medicine:

Charles Butcher, of New Jersey, Dewit C. Caldwell, of Virginia, John M. Green, of Pennsylvania, George Gourley, of Pennsylvania, Frederick C. Husmann, of Pennsylvania, James S. Kennedy, of New Jersey, Leonard R. Koecker, of Pennsylvania, Alfred A. Lane, of Pennsylvania, Levi H. Liner, of Pennsylvania, John Myers, of Pennsylvania, Thomas G. Morris, of Pennsylvania, Henry Smith Mayer, of Pennsylvania, Walter Moore, of Pennsylvania, Charles Matthews, of Pennsylvania, James F. X. McCloskey, of Pennsylvania, John H. Pierce, of New York, George W. Russell, of Mississippi, Jacob Schuyler, of Pennsylvania, Peter L. Thompson, of Cherokee Nation, Cornelius Tyson, of Pennsylvania, Henry Tyson, of Pennsylvania, Felix Paul Wierzbicki, of Rhode Island.

R. G. Morton, Dean.

The Inquirer remarks—"The list of Graduates at the 'Pennsylvania College,' embraces the names of the sons of a number of our most respectable citizens. This Institution is evidently prospering."

Gen. Samuel Dunn has been appointed Associate Judge for Franklin county.

George Washington.—We understand that there is a great press upon the President, just now, of persons seeking, under professions of personal devotion to him, to procure the removal of persons from official employments who are suspiciously suspected of not being quite so abject in their idolatry of power as those who want their places. This affluence of suitors for Presidential favor does not surprise us much, because, for some time past, intimations have been ripe in the newspapers that a very extensive sweep from office of suspected persons was to take place soon after the adjournment of Congress. We sincerely trust, for the honor of the Executive, as well as from a regard for the interests of the public service, that these hunters after the spoils of better men are destined to much disappointment. The public weal suffers when a competent and faithful officer is discarded from the public service, for whose removal no stronger cause exists than the nature of his political opinions, and their tolerant and proper exercise.—Nat. Inv.

Decision in relation to Church Property.—On Monday, the 20th ultimo, Judge Murray delivered the opinion of the Supreme Court of Louisiana in the case of *Martin vs. The Wardens of the Church of Saint Francis*, in Pointe Coupee.

The plaintiff was the curate of the parish, having been appointed by the bishop of the diocese. The wardens became dissatisfied with their pastor, and gave him notice to quit, and that they would not pay him after a certain time. He refused to leave, and the bishop declined withdrawing him until his demands were paid. The court decided that the wardens were under the charter, the legal owners of the church property, and its temporal administrators, free from any control from the clergy. That the wardens were responsible to the congregation only, and neither the pope nor bishops have any legal authority in Louisiana, either to manage the property dedicated to ecclesiastical purposes, or to impose priests upon the congregation contrary to their consent. The power of the clergy is spiritual alone, and can only operate upon the moral sense and consciences of the people. The law considers them as citizens only, affording them its protection as such, and the canon law is not to be considered in the enforcement of contracts—See.

James Madison Porter, of Pennsylvania, has been appointed by the President Secretary for the Department of War, in the place of Mr. Spencer, and yesterday entered on the discharge of his duties.—Nat. Inv. March 9.

Both Houses of our Legislature have passed a resolution to provide for the payment of the interest on the State debt, falling due last month and in the month of August next. The resolution directs the Governor to issue certificates bearing six per cent. interest, payable yearly, to all persons to whom interest is due in a sum larger than twenty dollars. Sums under twenty dollars are to be paid in money.

The Case of the Somers.—We learn from New York that the Grand Jury of the United States District Court, now in session in that city, have refused to find a bill against Commander Mackenzie.

It is further stated that the examination of witnesses in this case before the Naval Court Martial is fast drawing to a close, and that the trial may be expected to terminate in a few days.

Some days since, all the apprentices on board of the U. S. Brig Somers, who had been placed in confinement for alleged participation in the intended mutiny of Spencer, were brought before the Recorder of the city of New York, on a writ of habeas corpus, in order to show cause why they should not be discharged. Evidence both for and against the application was heard; and on Friday last, the Recorder delivered his opinion, setting the apprentices free from further restraint.

African Squadron.—The New York American states that the frigate Macedonian, now fitting out at Norfolk, is to be the flag-ship of this Squadron. The command was sought by Commodore Perry, than whom a more discreet and fitting officer for so responsible and delicate a post, could not have been selected. The Saratoga sloop of war is to be one of the squadron. She is a new vessel, of great beauty and efficiency, daily expected at New York from Portsmouth.

There are to be several smaller vessels in order to more extended cruising along the coast.

The force will be at least 80 guns.

Maine Senator.—On Friday last John Fairfield, Governor of the State of Maine, was elected to the United States Senate by the Legislature of that State, in place of the Hon. Ruell Williams, resigned. The Whig vote in the House was cast for Wm. P. Fessenden. The term for which Mr. Fairfield has been elected expires on the 4th of March, 1845.

The Legislature of Alabama, both parties concurring, have passed vigorous and unequivocal resolutions in opposition to repudiation, in support of public faith, and approving the propriety of a resort to taxation to sustain it.

In the great gale in the Gulf of Mexico last September, three vessels were lost, and with them nearly or quite three hundred men.

It is said that a vein of gold four feet thick, from which two hands in three days raised 100 bushels of ore, worth \$10 a bushel, has been discovered by Dr. Stephen Fox, near Mecklenburg, Va.

A Costly Bottle of Wine.—It was sometime stated that at a dinner given by President Tyler, a bottle of wine was broached which was four hundred years old. The Temperance Herald enters into a calculation of what it was worth, basing its first value at 50 cents; this sum put out at six per cent. interest, would in that time amount to the enormous sum of \$7,159,183,189,493.

A Cold Business.—The barque Levant, Capt. Hall, arrived in the Breakwater on Sunday last, completely encased in ice; some 40 or 50 tons having accumulated on her while on the road, the two days and nights previous. Several of her crew were so much frozen that the captain has been necessitated to come to the city for help to bring the vessel up. The Levant is from the West Indies.—Phil. Forum.

Counterfeit one and two dollar notes on the Exchange Bank of Pittsburgh, very difficult of detection, are in circulation at Pittsburgh.

It is said that in the single city of Peking, nine thousand infants are destroyed annually, and that the proportion is as great all over the empire.

The wagoner, a notice of whose death we recently published, was in the employ of Mr. Henry J. Jarboe, near Emmitsburg, and not of Mr. McDivitt, as was stated.—Nat. Inv.

Counterfeit one and two dollar notes on the Exchange Bank of Pittsburgh, very difficult of detection, are in circulation at Pittsburgh.

The Inquirer remarks—"The list of Graduates at the 'Pennsylvania College,' embraces the names of the sons of a number of our most respectable citizens. This Institution is evidently prospering."

Gen. Samuel Dunn has been appointed Associate Judge for Franklin county.

Cumberland Township WHIG TICKET.

[Settled on Saturday last, at Blakely's.]

Judge—Eli Horner.

Assessor—Joseph Bailey.

Assistant Assessors—Henry Lott, Col.

Robert Cobean.

Supervisors—Henry Mensigh, David

W. Horner.

School Directors—Benjamin Schri

ver, James M'Allister.

Auditor—James Black.

Constable—Henry Snyder.

REINDEAUXES.

The 12th article of the Constitution of the 'York Springs T. A. Society' provides, that "when any member wishes to withdraw from the Society, he shall present his resignation in writing, and it shall be announced in the public papers that the person concerned has withdrawn."

In obedience to the requisitions of the Constitution, the following letter of resignation is transmitted for publication:

PETERSBURG, Feb. 6th, 1843.

To the President and Members of

the 'York Springs T. A. Society.'

We, the undersigned, members of the

'York Springs T. A. Society,' beg leave

most respectfully, to tender the resignation of

of our membership. We are induced to do

this, because we have recently connected

ourselves with the 'York Springs Wash-

ington Temperance Society.'

We believe it to be both unnecessary and inexpedient to

belong to more than one Society of the kind.

With our best wishes for the future pros-

perity of your Society, we subscribe our-

selves,

Your co-laborers,

Lewis R. Hurney,

William B. Brandon,

Christian S. Picking,

Gabriel H. Messersmith.

By order of the President,

SAMUEL E. PRICE,

Secretary of the York Springs T. A. S.

March 13.

IMPROVEMENT IN

WATER WHEELS.

THE subscriber takes pleasure in in-

forming the owners of Mills and

other Machinery, that he has made an

important improvement in the construc-

tion of Water-wheels, which will be

found far superior to any Water wheels

now in use—for the following reasons:

1st. They will do the same work with

one-third less water than any undershot

or reaction wheel. 2d. They are much

more simple and less expensive to build

3d. They are much more durable, being

cast-iron wheels. And, 4th, they are

never obstructed by ice, nor impeded by

back water. I speak with confidence

concerning these Wheels. I have two of

them in operation in my Mill, which have run about fifteen months, and du-

ring which time they have performed

admirably well, and fully sustain the re-

commendation here given them. These

wheels run horizontally under water, and

will answer to any fall from 3 feet to 15

feet; and will answer for Saw mills, or

any other machinery requiring water

power, and can be applied to gears or

straps. I prefer the latter. I have three

pair of stones in my Mill, all running by

straps—I have not a cog-wheel in the

Mill. We find the straps to answer

well, if properly constructed; they are

infinitely cheaper, and they render the

whole plan so very simple, that in fact

there seems to be nothing to wear out or

rot. The millwright work to one of

these wheels, and all necessary gearing to

run one pair of stones, can be made, and

the cast wheel furnished and put up, for

about fifty or fifty-five dollars, boarding

found, and which in fact will answer to

must necessarily be subject to the control of the House of Representatives, merely because they relate to a subject of the deliberations of the House, although that subject may be within the sphere of its legitimate powers. It cannot be that the only test is whether the information relates to a legitimate subject of deliberation. The Executive Department and the citizens of this country have their rights and duties as well as the House of Representatives; and the maxim that the rights of one person or body are to be so exercised as not to impair those of another is applicable in the fullest extent to this question."

This is principally but a reiteration of the assertion of the President, that the resolution adopted by the House of Representatives, declaratory of its rights, is too broad, and would invest it with powers not conferred on it by the Constitution, and which, if carried into practice, would invade the rights of the Executive. The latter part of this proposition has already been fully disproved. It has been shown that the exercise of the right to demand from the Executive and heads of Departments such papers, or copies of papers, or other information, as may be in their possession, is no invasion of the rights of the Executive, in pairs none of its just powers, nor suspends any of its functions.

But is the resolution adopted by the House more comprehensive than a fair construction of the constitution warrants? The resolution asserts that "the House has a right to demand from the Executive and heads of Department such information as may be in their possession, relating to subjects of the deliberations of the House, and within the sphere of its legitimate powers."

The question involved in this resolution is: Does the House of Representatives possess the right to investigate abuses? — a right virtually denied to the House if the Executive doctrines prevail. For the right to investigate abuses with full power to procure information and evidence would present the anomaly of the existence of a right without the means of enforcing it.

By the Constitution of the U. States, the President, Vice President, and all civil officers of the Government, are liable to impeachment for treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors; and the sole power to impeach is vested in the House of Representatives. If the House possess the power to impeach, it must likewise possess all the incidents of that power—the power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of all such papers as may be considered necessary to prove the charges on which the impeachment is founded. If it did not, the power of impeachment conferred upon it by the Constitution would be nugatory. It could not exercise it with effect. But is the power of the House to compel the production of papers, or the attendance of witnesses, limited to proceedings in cases of impeachment? Has the House of Representatives no power to inquire into offences not impeachable? Does not the power to impeach for great offences involve the power to inquire into all offences? It necessarily does so. In its character of grand inquest of the nation it possesses this right; and it is in this character the House acts, whether it be engaged in the investigation of some petty fraud committed by some subordinate officer of the Government, or in the impeachment of the President for high crimes and misdemeanors. This right to demand information belongs to its character, is one of its attributes, not merely an accidental right which it acquires when it takes upon itself the duty of impeachment. It is not a right which it derives from the act of proceeding to investigate a particular kind of offence, and which it loses when it is engaged in the investigation of another or smaller offence. It is a permanent right inherent in it, and not an incident of some peculiar function.

The power of the House to institute inquiries and investigate abuses has been exercised by it from the beginning of the Government to the present day. Such inquiries and investigations have, at various times, been made in every Department of the Government, and every branch of the public service, civil and military, and the power of the House to inquire into all official abuses and misconduct, and into the management of public affairs at home and abroad, as far as the knowledge of the committee extends, has never been denied or questioned until now. Let this power to investigate the abuses which may exist in the several departments of the Government be surrendered by the House, and there will be no check upon extravagance: the responsibility of public officers will be at an end; profligate and corrupt agents, unawed by the fear of exposure, will riot in the spoils of a plundered Treasury; whilst Congress will have lost all power to bring them to account, or to protect the public interest against their rapacity.

By claiming for the House the right to demand from the Executive and heads of Departments such information as may be in their possession, relating to subjects of the deliberations of the House, and within the sphere of its legitimate powers, the committee do not mean to assert that there may not be sometimes information and papers in their possession which should not be made public. Such there no doubt are; but the House has the right to inspect them, and it, and not the Executive, is to be the judge of the propriety of making them public. The President has all along assumed, in his message, that the publication of all information and papers is a necessary consequence of their communication to the House. In this he is mistaken. It does not follow that all information communicated to the House must be made public. Confidential communications are daily made by the Executive to the Senate; and secret is always observed in regard to them as long as the public interest

requires it. There is nothing in the constitution of the House to prevent it from doing the same thing. Information transmitted to it by the Executive, on his suggestion that it is of a confidential character, may be referred to a committee under a charge of secrecy until an examination of it can be made, when, if the committee concur in opinion with the Executive, its publication may be dispensed with. This is the true parliamentary course. It furnishes, at once, a security against secret abuses, and the irresponsibility of the public officers and agents, which would follow the denial of the right of the House to demand information, and at the same time protects the State against the discovery of facts important for the time to be concealed. In the present case, on the suggestion of the President, the reports and other papers were referred to the committee under at least an implied injunction of secrecy; and, if the committee had concurred with the President in opinion, nothing would have been easier than to have returned them to the Executive department, their contents remaining unknown, excepting to the committee. Thus it will be seen, that the resolution protested against by the President requires nothing from the Executive which can ever prove detrimental to the interests of the State, unless it be presumed that those interests would be more safe in his keeping than in that of the House—a presumption which finds no warrant in the Constitution, and as little in the Executive history of the Government.

The President, however, assumes that he is the sole guardian of the interest of the country; that those interests are safe in his hands alone; and that the Legislative department of the Government is naturally hostile both to the Executive and the People. This is what is implied in the following portion of the message and its contents. He declares that "the Executive department and the citizens of this country have their rights and duties as well as the House of Representatives, and that the maxim that the rights of one person or body are to be

so exercised as not to impair those of others is applicable in the fullest extent to this question"—the question of the right of the House to demand from the Executive and heads of departments the information in their possession.

These truths, in themselves, are not objectionable; but they are made the medium through which the legislative department of the Government is charged with hostility to the people. The views of the President on the subject of the relations of the several departments of the Government towards each other and towards the people are confused and indefinite, and seem to have been formed on some vague notion that there exists a kind of constitutional or inherent antipathy between the Executive and legislative departments of the Government. The perception of some minds is limited to the circumstances which immediately surround them; and it is probable the President has derived his notions of the relations of the different departments from his own peculiar relations to the present Congress, rather than from any well considered reading of the Constitution, or enlarged general views. That the Executive possesses rights as well as the House, is not denied. That the people have rights is equally true; but how those rights are to be invaded by the House is not upon its right to call for information and investigate abuses in the administration of the Government, is difficult to comprehend. We have already shown that the denial of this right to the House would be destructive of the public interests; that the responsibility of the officers and agents of the Government would be at an end, and corruption and extravagance encouraged.

In support and illustration of what he has before advanced, the President asserts that "it is certainly no new doctrine in the halls of judicature or of legislation, that certain communications and papers are privileged; & that the general authority to compel testimony must give way in certain cases to the paramount right of individuals or of the Government. Thus he says, 'no man can be compelled to accuse himself, to answer any question that tends to render him infamous, or to produce his own private papers, on any occasion. The communications of a client to his counsel and the admissions made at the confessional in the course of religious discipline are privileged communications. In the courts of that country from which we derive our great principles of individual liberty and the rules of evidence, it is well settled, and the doctrine has been fully recognised in this country, that a minister of the Crown or the head of a Department cannot be compelled to produce any papers, or disclose any transaction relating to the Executive functions of the Government which he declares are confidential, or such as the public interest require should not be divulged; and the persons who have been the channels of communication to officers of the State are in like manner protected from the disclosure of their names. These principles are as applicable to evidence sought by a legal action as to that required by a court.'

The general rule of law is, that no one will be permitted to withhold any communication which is important as evidence, however secret and confidential the nature of that communication may have been. There are, however, some instances where the courts exclude particular evidence, on grounds of public policy, because greater mischief and inconvenience would result to the State from the reception of it, than would overbalance the injury which individuals might sustain by its exclusion. The interests of individuals are made to give way to the paramount interests of the community. Thus a witness is not allowed to reveal facts in a court of justice, the disclosure of which might be injurious to the State; and, of course, the same rule prevails in relation to papers the contents of which would have a like tendency. The communication of evidence to a jury is a promulgation of it to the country. The law no regards it, and is so in fact. Hence the rule which excludes evidence the disclosure of which would be detrimental to the interests of the State. But his rule is only applicable to the judicial, and not to parliamentary tribunals; and the error of the President consists in not having observed the distinction.

The reason of the rule which excludes

certain evidence is found in the fact that its reception by the courts is equivalent to a publication, which principles of public policy forbid in particular cases. The reason of this rule, however, does not extend to parliamentary tribunals, which may conduct their investigations in secret, without divulging any evidence which might be prejudicial to the State. The practise of conducting investigations by secret committees has constantly prevailed in the British House of Commons ever since the Revolution of 1688, and perhaps from an earlier period; and the committee are aware of no instance in which evidence has been excluded in pursuance of the above rule. There is no reason for its observance in such cases, because there is no necessity for the publication of the evidence which may be delivered before such a tribunal. This appears there exists no rule which would exclude any evidence from the House or a committee of the House, which are as competent to guard the interests of the State, and have as high motives for doing so as the Executive can have. On the other hand, it has already been shown, that to withhold such evidence, at the mere discretion of the Executive, would be in effect to strip the House of the right to institute inquiries and investigate abuses. The consequence of this every one foresees. Public officers and agents will become irresponsible, speculations and abuses of every kind will be perpetrated with impunity, and fraud and corruption will walk abroad unrebuted in open day—Such would be the practical operation of the rule laid down by the President. But this rule, it has been shown, is applicable only to judicial and not to legislative investigations.

(To be concluded next week.)

The Comet, which we mentioned on our fourth page, as having been seen in New Bedford, is thus described by a writer in the New Bedford Mercury:

Its brilliancy was almost equal to that of Venus. Its situation is very near the limb of the sun; its tail appears about 3 degrees in length. It may be the comet announced some three months since in Europe; it was then traversing the constellation Draco; be it that or another, it is of rare brilliancy. There are but three on record, of sufficient brilliancy to be seen in the day season. The first was 43 years before Christ, and is called 'a hairy star'; it was seen with the naked eye in the day time. The second was seen in the year 1402, and was so brilliant that the light of the sun, at the end of March, did not hinder people seeing it at mid-day; both its nucleus and tail, was, to use the language of the day, 'two fathoms long.' The third appeared in Feb. 18th, 1744, and nearly equalled Venus in splendor, and many persons saw it at mid-day without glasses. It may yet prove that the comet of to day is the same as that of 402.

Important Judicial Decision.—The Saratoga N. Y. Sentinel of a late date says, that in the case of Taylor v. Porter and Ford, decided at the last January term of the Supreme Court, it was held, (Nelson Ch. J. dissenting,) that the statute authorising the laying out of private roads without the consent of the owners of the land over which they pass, is unconstitutional and void. The decision is calculated to affect important rights, and should be generally known.

The importation of specie into the United States, at the present time, is greater than was ever before known.—Almost every vessel arriving from foreign ports, brings more or less of the precious metals. New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, are flooded with specie.

Mr. Buchanan has replied to a letter addressed to him by some of his Pennsylvania friends, in which, speaking of the Democratic candidate for the coming Presidential election, he remarks that he would resign his pretensions if he could thus secure harmony, and that in his opinion the candidate who would either intriguing or personally elector for the Presidency raises a strong presumption that he is unworthy of it. Should he himself be nominated by the 'Democracy of Pennsylvania' with unanimity enough to give moral force to the act, he says he should feel that he ought not to counteract their wishes.

The disease of the 'black tongue' has proved very fatal in some parts of Missouri. In the thinly populated settlement of Point Pleasant, in New Madrid county, seventy five persons had fallen victims to it. A belief is entertained that the disease is contagious, being founded on the fact that it is known in many cases to run through a family when it had once seized any person in it.

A few days since a boat left the Canada side of the river, to cross to Niagara with a 'Theatrical corps, consisting of ten persons, among them a man named Mercer; the boat was capsized in a gull and every soul on board perished.

Destructive Shot.—Experiments were tried at Albany on Wednesday, in the presence of Gen. Wool and Major Baker of the army, which satisfied them of the final success of the hollow shot or shells, invented by Scott and Burdick of that city. The shells are loaded with a composition designed to explode them at the instant of striking any object at which they may be aimed. The Journal says the effect of a single shot upon a large ship would be to sink her almost instantaneously, and exploding in or near a body of troops it would prove awfully destructive.

Punishment for Seduction.—A bill has been read in the Senate of Pennsylvania by Mr. Sullivan, called 'an act to punish seduction, and to afford a more adequate remedy for the injury.' This bill declares that seduction of any female is an indictable offence, and in addition to the remedies now given by law, any person convicted of this offence in any Court of Quarter Sessions, shall be sentenced to pay a fine not less than \$500, nor more than \$10,000, at the discretion of the Court, and further, to undergo solitary confinement, at hard labor, in the Penitentiary, not less than one year, nor more than ten; and that the action for seduction may be sued by any mother or other relative of the female seduced.—*Phil. Ledger.*

Juvenile Depravity.—A letter from Stuttgart, Germany, states that the Court Royale of the Black Forest, sitting at Oberndorf, has just been engaged in the trial of a boy eleven and a half years of age, named Scheifer, for having in six months made 32 attempts at incendiarism, in five of which he succeeded, and which caused the destruction of 30 houses, valued with their contents at 170,000fl. (442,000.) He was sentenced to be confined for twelve years.

An Example.—Elihu Burritt, called the learned blacksmith, who is at this time master of more than 50 languages, told a gentleman, who related it to us, that when he first formed a determination to become acquainted with books, being an apprentice at the time to his trade, he earned one day by extra labor a quarter of a dollar, and with this in his pocket, he walked fifteen miles at night, bought a Latin grammar, walked the fifteen miles back, and was at his work the next morning at the usual time.—*Wilmingtn. (N. C.) Chronicle.*

On the 19th ult. a girl named Lucy Talbot, of Milton, Massachusetts, went on a sleighing frolic with a married man named John Bowman, who stopped at a distillery in Roxbury and gave her three glasses of brandy, which she drank.—Bowman stated in his examination before the Coroner's Jury, that when he had arrived at her home she was speechless, having spoken but once after drinking the brandy. He then took her to the residence of a physician, who, upon examining her, found she was dead.

A Heavy Verdict.—Eight thousand dollars damages have been rendered by a Jury in Tompkins county (N. Y.) circuit for a breach of promise of marriage. The parties to the suit were Mary Conrad and Josiah B. Williams, both of the village of Ithaca.

Canal across the Isthmus of Panama.

A Texan paper says that the canal company chartered by the government of New Grenada, have commenced excavating the grand canal across the Isthmus of Panama. The country through which the canal will pass, has a mean elevation of only thirty seven feet above the level of the sea. The entire length of the canal will be about forty-nine miles; but only twelve and a half miles will be excavated, and the rivers Chagres and Grande will be rendered navigable the remaining distance. There will be sufficient depth of water for ships of four hundred tons. The work, it is believed, will be completed in five years, and the astonishing spectacle will be presented of the navies of the old world sailing from ocean to ocean, through the disengaged chains of the Andes and Cordilleras, between the two mighty continents of North and South America!

Philadelphia.—We are glad to learn that the Bank of Pennsylvania will probably soon resume specie payments, and that the trust assignment made by the U. S. Bank, for the repayment of the large sums loaned by the several Philadelphia banks, with such ridiculous folly, is likely to result better than was expected, and may even pay one-half the loans.—*N. Y. Jour. Com.*

As a fact illustrative of the abundance of money in New York, the Express states that one bank in Wall street has one million six hundred thousand dollars in specie on hand, and is a creditor bank to the amount of four hundred dollars. The same Bank has a circulation of only a little over three hundred thousand dollars. This bank could extend its line of discount, if it could find the securities, to two millions of dollars.

Ferdiet.—In the case of the African Presbyterian Church against the County of Philadelphia, before Judge Kennedy in the Supreme Court, the jury on Friday, returned a verdict for the plaintiffs for \$5,650 damages, for the destruction of the meeting house by fire during the riots on the first of August last. In reference to the principal legal point involved, Judge Kennedy charged the jury that it was immaterial whether the building was fired purposely by the mob, or took fire in consequence of the burning of Smith's Hall, which was in the vicinity, and was clearly proven to have been purposely destroyed. Whether the destruction was wilfully effected or was the consequence of other wilful acts of the rioters, in either case the plaintiffs were entitled to compensation from the county.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

Kendal of the New Orleans Picayune says that in some parts of Mexico soap is a lawful tender in the payment of all debts.

From a report recently made to the Senate of the United States by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, we learn that during the last and present sessions of Congress, there have been 5,140 petitions for a repeal of the act, 48,561 against such repeal, 1,758 for a modification, 4,342 for a modification or repeal, and 447 for a postponement.

The steamer Acadia left Boston on Wednesday week for Halifax and Liverpool, carrying out 16 passengers, 21,000 letters, 50 bushels of newspapers, and 23 tons of ice.

Poisoned Grain.—A quantity of oats taken from a sunken vessel, was recently sold at Chester, Pa., for horse feed. Almost all the horses, as well as hogs and chickens, which were fed on it, were soon after taken sick, causing their deaths in a few hours.

A Legislative Row.—On Thursday last, in the House of Representatives of the National Legislature, the resolutions recommending Congress to refund to General Jackson a fine imposed years ago, were called for within 48 hours of the adjournment of Congress, and therefore too late for them to be acted upon or even received by that body; the folly, ay the wickedness, of such special legislation, at the expense of a people already groaning under the heavy burdens of direct taxation, must be seen in a moment; and was of course opposed by the Whigs, as all honest men who regard the solemn obligations resting upon them as legislators for the interest of their constituents and State are in duty bound to do.

But, says the Albany American Citizen, the majority members were determined, notwithstanding the manifest waste of valuable time, to push the resolution through. Upon the question of their passage, there was for hours an uninterrupted scene of complete confusion and disorder. Motions were made, decisions of the Chair declared and appealed from, points of order raised, explanations of the Chair repeated and misunderstood, squabbles for the floor, half a dozen talking at a time, and the incessant rap! rap! of the unheeded hammer upon the desk &c. &c. It was a perfect babel. This lasted until near two o'clock, when the question was taken—members who professed they were in the dark on the subject, and others who could see no good reason for voting, obliged under the operations of the gag to vote against their will—and the resolutions at length passed by a party vote.—*Nat. Forum.*

Porter's Last Veto.—Pennsylvania is most thoroughly disgraced in the person of her Executive. The people of the other States of the Union look on appalled at the extent to which he has allowed his vile political predilections to carry him, and are speaking in the most unmeasured terms of condemnation and utter contempt. As a specimen of how low he has fallen in the public estimation abroad, we clip the following extract from the N. Y. Trial, one of the most impartial Newspapers in the country:—*York Rep.* "This (the veto) is a proclamation of profligacy—a bold, barefaced, avowal of party baseness of which no other Governor in the Union could have been guilty!"

Mr. Webster.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Courier writes—

When the nomination of Mr. Cushing was under advisement in the Senate, Mr. Archer remarked that he was authorized to inform the Senate, that Mr. Webster was about to retire from the Cabinet, and therefore there could be no objection arising from the fact, that he and Mr. Cushing were from the same State.

The New Mirror will appear with many striking and attractive features, distinguishing it from every other periodical. It will be published with new type, on fine paper, and each number will contain a beautiful engraving on steel, designed and etched by Chapman, illustrating the letter-press which it accompanies, and which it will invest with peculiar interest. Besides the contributions of ALL OUR EXTENSIVE CORPS OF CORRESPONDENTS—which embraces most of the talent of this country—we have made arrangements for fresh and early translations from some of the best writers of France, and for proof-sheets from several of the popular authors of England. With such materials, and with such able fellow laborers in the literary vineyard, we hope to present to the American reader a weekly journal of great value and unusual excellence.—The parade of names will be sedulously avoided. The Mirror will be remarkable, we hope, rather for good articles without names, than for poor articles with distinguished names. It will embrace in its scope every department of elegant literature, comprising tales of romance, sketches of society and manners, sentiment, and every-day life, quaint essays, domestic and foreign correspondence, literary intelligence, wit and humor, fashion and gossip, poetry, the fine arts, and literary, musical and dramatic criticisms. Its reviews of new works will be careful, discriminating and impartial. It will aim to foster a literature suited to the taste and desires of the age and country. Its tendency will be cheerful and enlivening, as well as improving. It will seek to gratify every refined taste, but never to offend the most fastidious; and it will ever feel its duty to be, to "turn the sunny side of things to human eyes."

The work will be published every Saturday in numbers of sixteen large super-row pages, with double columns, and enclosed in a neat ornamental cover. It will form, at the end of the year, two superb volumes, each of four hundred and sixteen pages, filled with the gems of literature and the fine arts.

The very low price at which it will be issued, renders it the cheapest periodical in this or any other country, considering the cost and beauty of its FIFTY-TWO ENGRAVINGS, and the intrinsic value of its literary contents.—Those desirous of receiving the paper from the commencement, will have it punctually sent to their address upon their forwarding to the undersigned, at No. 4 Ann street, three dollars, free of expense.

Letters enclosing the amount of subscription, may be franked by all post-masters. Agents, carriers, and news-men, will be supplied on the usual terms.

The cash system will be rigidly adhered to without any deviation whatever.

United States and Mexico.—The National Intelligencer says that among the Executive proceedings in the Senate towards the close of the session of Congress was the ratification of a convention between the Diplomatic Representative of the United States and that Government, the terms of which are said to be honorable and eligible to both nations.

The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser of Monday says, the large amount of coin and eastern funds (estimated at \$500,000) recently transmitted westward by the wheat dealers, begins to exhibit itself in